

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 18 | Humidity 88%

Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later

Sensex 77,578

Nifty 23,518

Gold 77,620

Silver 92,000

Dollar 84.42

Euro 88.86

GBP 106.99

NO RESPONSE

Govt officials, agencies fail to respond to green tribunal over Chikkanagamangala plant 2 years after receiving notice



PAGE 4



PAGE 5

EXAM FEVER

Karnataka Examinations Authority files complaint over massive seat-blocking scam; some students too in on it

As built-up area expands and eats into lakes, water gets polluted leading to weed growth — study analyses Yele Mallappa Shetty lake to show impact of rampant urbanisation on watershed areas

THE SHAPE OF WATER



Built-up area in catchment in 1993 was 7.2%, by 2023, it had become 34.6%

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A land use land cover change analysis of the catchment area of Yele Mallappa Shetty and six other lakes in the region shows that the watershed of the lake series has undergone large-scale urbanisation over the last three decades.

This rapid urbanisation has led to an increase in wastewater influx, causing water pollution in the lakes leading to significant weed growth. The analysis of satellite imagery

done by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay shows that in 1993, 53.4% of the Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake series catchment area was dominated by open spaces, 35% of the catchment was covered with agriculture land and vegetation, and the built-up area formed only 7.2% of the total catchment.

Built-up area expands

However, by 2023, the built-up area has expanded to 34.6% and became the dominant land use. This is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Increased water availability expanded the user base of the end lake, but traditional uses have declined and coping strategies of users, such as wastewater lift irrigation from the lake, became unsustainable

— IIT Bombay study

BUFFER WISH



Relocating trunk lines, building service road along stormwater drains and more plans to address encroachment issue

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In a move to curb illegal constructions in buffer zones around stormwater drains (rajakaluves) and lake beds, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced a series of developmental projects. BBMP officials claim that these initiatives aim to address encroachments and flooding issues that have plagued the city for years.

An official said, "The BBMP jurisdiction, covering an area of 800 sq km, has a network of 860 km of primary, secondary, and tertiary stormwater drains. Additionally, Bengaluru is home to 180 active lakes, many of which are under threat from encroachments. As per the Revised Master Plan (RMP-2015) prepared by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), buffer zones have been established to restrict constructions near stormwater drains and lakes, marking a significant step toward preserving these ecosystems. The regulations specify buffer zones of 50 metres for primary drains, 25 metres for secondary drains, and 15 metres for tertiary drains, while a 30-metre buffer is mandated around lake beds. Despite these provisions, illegal constructions persist under the guise of agricultural or horticultural

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Bollywood party

Calling all Bollywood fans! Social Tadka is here with a high-energy night of all things Bollywood, packed with glamour, music, and unforgettable fun. Dive into a fully immersive experience with an audio-visual set that blends retro vibes with modern fusion, creating the perfect backdrop for a night of fun and nostalgia. Be ready to party with dhol beats, energetic dancers, to dress up as your favourite Bollywood character, and more.
Where: Koramangala, Sarjapur, Bellandur, Nagavara, JP Nagar & Hebbal Social
When: November 22, 8 pm onwards



02 Evergreen vocals

Immerse yourselves in 'Dhrupad Dhvani,' a two-day showcase of Dhrupad, one of the oldest vocal forms of classical music from the Indian subcontinent. On Day-1, join in for an enriching experience of this ancient musical tradition with Padma Shri Pt Dr Ritwik Sanyal. A Dhrupad maestro with over 45 years of experience, Dr. Sanyal is known for his exceptional performances that evoke the serenity of the Sānta Rasa. He will be accompanied by his son and vocalist Ribhu Sanyal.
Where: MLR Convention Centre, JP Nagar
When: November 29, 6 pm

03 Bharatanatyam debut performance

Join in for the Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha (maiden solo dance debut) of Suchetha Kalluraya, daughter of Smitha and Suprasaad Kalluraya. Witness Suchetha's dedication to the intricate expressions, rhythmic footwork, and grace of Bharatanatyam. This performance represents years of dedication, discipline, and training in the traditional art form under the guidance of her revered guru, Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik.



Where: JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar
When: November 23, 5 pm



Dive into space

S Somanath, the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), addresses the gathering on the second day of the Bangalore Tech Summit (BTS) at Bengaluru Palace on Wednesday

Athletes from city's gym shine at powerlifting championship

Garage-turned-gym 'Vintage Strength' secures 31 medals, including 16 gold, at WRPX World Championship in Moscow, with 2 athletes setting world records

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A small 750-square-foot garage-turned-gym in Bengaluru has now made a big impact on the global stage. Athletes trained at Vintage Strength at JP Nagar, led by veteran powerlifter and coach Azmat Mohammed, brought home 31 medals at the WRPX World Championship in Moscow, held from November 14-17, 2024.

This feat was part of Team India's incredible tally of 71 medals at the competition, which included 42 gold, 20 silver, and nine bronze. Of these, Azmat's trainees accounted for 16 gold, nine silver, and six bronze medals. The team consisted of athletes from junior to master categories, showcasing talent across age groups.

Creating new records

Among the many winners from Bengaluru, two athletes stood out with record-breaking performances. Arham Modi (25) set a new world record for India by deadlifting 200 kg at just 50 kg body weight. He is also Vintage Strength's first sponsored athlete. Chirag Sai (22) broke another record by deadlifting 210 kg in the junior category. These young athletes, along with others, showcased their strength and determination, competing against a pool of over 3,500 participants in Moscow.

Azmat (aged 47) has been a



Participants from the Vintage Strength team; (inset) Arham Modi, who set a new world record for India in 200 kg deadlift

powerlifter for 31 years and is a six-time world champion and three-time Asian champion. He has not only coached the team but also competed himself, adding to India's medal tally. He won a gold medal in full powerlifting, a silver in the push-pull category, and a bronze in deadlift. "We have athletes training here from ages 19 to 50 and above. The beauty of powerlifting is that it welcomes everyone who is passionate about the sport," said Azmat.

Gym's background & success story

The Vintage Strength began as a passion project. Three years ago, Shams Ahmed, from the NGO Helping Heroes, converted his basement garage into a specialised coaching space for powerlift-

ing. Now, the niche training facility accommodates around 25-30 dedicated athletes who train rigorously in the sport.

"My 23-year-old son is very passionate about powerlifting. He has friends whose interest also lies in it. Looking at their passion and dedication, I decided to turn my garage into a training space. Despite starting small, it is great to see what we have achieved in just three years," said Ahmed.

Ahmed highlighted that participating in international competitions is not easy, as athletes bear all the costs themselves. However, the enthusiasm and commitment of the trainees at Vintage Strength keep the dream alive. "The cost to go to such events was totally borne by the athletes, yet they participated with full enthusiasm and even



won," Ahmed said.

Vintage Strength had earlier tasted success at the World Championship in Kazakhstan, and the Moscow victory further cements its reputation as a powerhouse for Indian powerlifting. With their success, Bengaluru's garage gym has not just made the city proud but also inspired aspiring athletes across the country to pursue their dreams, no matter the size of the training space.

Tricksters wait by pre-paid taxi desks

Passengers report unauthorised men operating pre-paid taxi counter, charging inflated fares at city railway station

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Here is a caution for those who arrive at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station from Chennai or other cities in the wee hours and want to depend on the pre-paid taxi counter to reach home without any hassles. Most of the railway passengers depend on the pre-paid taxi counter as they believe that it facilitates them to reach home at a fixed fare and also avoids wasting time in arguing or bargaining with the cab driver.

However, the pre-paid taxi counter at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station is not functioning up to railway passengers' expectations. There is no guarantee of an authorised person operating the pre-paid taxi counter. Any cab driver can occupy the chair, pretend to be an authorised person, and fix the cab fare as per his whims and fancies.

Family shocker instance at pre-paid taxi counter

Here is a shocking story of a family that arrived at the said station at 4.45 am on Monday from Chennai. "My family and I arrived at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station at 4.45 am on Monday. As



Unauthorised individual inside the counter at 5:45 am on Monday; no authorised staff at the pre-paid taxi counter at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station on Tuesday night

usual, auto rickshaw and cab drivers mobbed us as soon as we came out of the railway station. They demanded Rs 550 for our destination at Fraser Town. I was asked to visit the pre-paid taxi counter if I felt the fare demanded by them was excessive. I found one person sitting inside the pre-paid taxi counter who told me that I have to pay Rs 700, which is Rs 150 more than the fare demanded by cab drivers," said

Suresh, a resident of Fraser Town.

Suresh noted that generally, the fare fixed by the pre-paid taxi counter should be less than the fare demanded by the cab drivers. "...I asked the person at the counter whether he could issue me a bill for the fare, to which he replied that the computer is not working. After realising that he isn't an authorised person, I hired a private cab to reach home at a lesser fare (Rs

380)." Left flabbergasted at this situation at hand, Suresh questioned, "How do unauthorised persons enter the pre-paid taxi counter? How come the people responsible for maintaining the pre-paid taxi counter allow the counter to open in their absence? I am of the opinion this is nothing but the taxi drivers mafia."

It's not one-time case

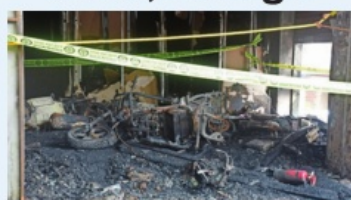
This BM correspondent visited the pre-paid taxi counter at 8 pm on Tuesday and found no authorised person maintaining the counter. There were three cab drivers who tried to fix the fare to Halasuru as per their discretion. When questioned, they said the person in charge of the pre-paid taxi counter is yet to attend duty.

Authority's response

Meanwhile, Mehaboob Pasha, vice president, Bangalore and Airport Taxi Drivers Union, has said there will not be much demand for pre-paid taxi services after 4 pm. "We have appointed people to maintain the pre-paid taxi counter. The person in charge of the pre-paid taxi counter at night did not turn up on time on Tuesday," he said.

Will the authorities take measures to fix this problem? Hapless railway passengers have to wait and watch.

EV store fire: Cops arrest showroom owner, manager



The Rajaji Nagar police on Wednesday arrested two individuals in a case related to a devastating fire incident at an EV showroom on Tuesday evening near Navarang Junction on Rajkumar Road, resulting in the death of a 20-year-old woman and injuries to three others. The accused are identified as Puneeth (36), the owner of My EV store, and Yuvraja (37), the store manager.

Priya, the deceased, was an accountant at the store who succumbed to suffocation. Her body was handed over to her parents following a post-mortem at Victoria Hospital.

Firefighters managed to control the blaze after it destroyed 45 scooters in the showroom. Police investigations revealed that the store lacked fire safety equipment and staff training, violations that may have exacerbated the tragedy. The accused were booked under relevant sections of the law following a complaint by Priya's brother. DCP North, Saidulu Adavath, confirmed that Puneeth and Yuvraja were produced before the magistrate's court on Wednesday.

—BMB



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Govt agencies fail to respond to NGT order

Residents of Chikkanagamangala protest against pollution from waste plant, demanding action as authorities continue to ignore ongoing complaints

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In August 2022, residents of Chikkanagamangala in southeast Bengaluru protested against pollution caused by a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) plant in the area.

Bangalore Mirror published an article on the protest highlighting various health and environment-related issues. Following the news article, which appeared on August 18, 2022, the National Green Tribunal registered a suo motu case based on the news report.

In September, NGT sent notices to seven government officials and agencies, namely the District Collector of Bengaluru, Chikkanagamangala Grama Panchayat, Regional Director of MoEF&CC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and the regional director of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in this regard.

However, more than two years have passed, but none of these agencies have filed any report or response to NGT's notices and directions. The tribunal, after finding the state of affairs unsatisfactory, ordered the formulation of a Joint Committee comprising the Regional Director



(File photo) Residents claim open waste dumping from the plant causes unbearable stench, they demand BBMP to shut it down due to health hazards

of CPCB, the Regional Officer of MoEF&CC, and the KSPCB to look into the matter and take remedial action. The report was directed to be submitted within two months.

According to NGT, the District Collector, Bengaluru, has not filed any reply so far, Chikkanagamangala Grama Panchayat and MoEF&CC have not even appeared before the tribunal.

While BBMP claimed to have filed a report (with several documents in the Kannada language to be translated into English), no such report, as claimed by the civic agency, has been found by the zonal bench of NGT.

"We do not find such a report (by BBMP) on record. Therefore, we direct (the report) should be filed

We find it very unpleasant to note that this matter has been pending since 2022 and till now, not even a reply has been filed by all parties – NGT

within a week and a copy of the same shall be served on the other counsels," NGT has said. Likewise, KSPCB has also been directed to file the response within four weeks from now. BWSSB has now sought three more weeks to file a response.

"We find it very unpleasant to note that this matter has been pending since the year 2022 and till now, not even a reply has been filed by all

the parties. Therefore, we expect that all the parties will abide by the time granted by us for filing their reply," noted the Green Court in a statement issued recently.

The case was taken up by the principal bench and thereafter was transferred to the Southern Zone Bench.

The protest was held in August 2022 by residents of Chikkanagamangala, Doddanagamangala, and other villages within a four-kilometre radius of the plant. Residents had alleged that the waste generated from the plant was being dumped in the open, which is generating an unbearable stench. Locals, for years, have been demanding that BBMP shut down the plant altogether as it is a health hazard in the area.

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9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Footpath crisis

Marathahalli



Footpaths near Marathahalli Market are encroached upon, pushing pedestrians onto the road.

Path neglect

Gubbalala



The area behind Mantri Serenity on Gubbalala Road is heavily littered, and the footpath is overgrown with partheniums and other plants, making it unusable for pedestrians.

Exposed control

Lottegollahalli



A streetlight control near Lottegollahalli is not properly secured, raising safety concerns in adverse weather.



Bangalore Mirror reported on August 18, 2022, highlighting protests driven by health and environmental concerns

Lost child reunited with parents

The child, identified as Subhiksha, lives in Naidu Badavane. According to the police, the parents did not know about the child missing as they left her home while her mother, a domestic worker and father, a private company security guard, both were at work. Around 9:45 am, the girl strayed from her group of playmates and walked down the road, eventually being found crying by a passerby named Vignesh. Concerned, Vignesh called Namma112 to report the incident.

A team led by Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) H Chinnappa and the Hoysala-198 patrol vehicle staff re-

sponded promptly. Upon reaching the location, the team tried to communicate with the child, who kept pointing in the direction she had come from. Suspecting she might be from Naidu Badavane, an area predominantly occupied by Nepali and Bihari residents, the police visited the locality to investigate.

"At Naidu Badavane, when we asked the security guard, he recognised the child and informed us that she was the daughter of his friend. We contacted the parents and the 3-year-old girl was safely reunited with her family around 2 pm," ASI Chinnappa told BM.

— BMB

Man sentenced in rape case

A construction worker was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment till his natural death on Tuesday by the Chikkaballapura district session court for kidnapping and raping a 14-year-old girl repeatedly in June 2020.

The accused identified as Raju Das was a friend of the victim's father. He frequently visited the house. On June 25, 2020, in one such visit, Raju took the girl along with him to an isolated place and raped her. He later took her to Madanapalli where he reportedly raped her again.

The mother of the victim raised a complaint when she realised her

daughter was missing.

The police successfully tracked down the girl and arrested Raju. He was booked for kidnap, rape and also under various sections of the POCSO case and a charge sheet was filed before the court. During the trial, the accused secured interim bail but fled to Andhra Pradesh. However, in June, the police located him, took him into custody, and remanded him to judicial custody until his conviction on Thursday.

Judge Savitha Kumari sentenced the accused and imposed a fine of 50,000. Additionally, the court awarded 4 lakh as compensation to the victim.

— BMB

Man arrested for tax fraud

The Enforcement Directorate arrested a Bengaluru man on Wednesday under the anti-money laundering law for allegedly manipulating Income Tax Returns (ITRs) to claim fraudulent refunds.

Dilip B R was taken into custody on November 18 and a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court sent him to ED custody for seven days, the federal agency said in a statement.

"One of the key fraudulent tactics used by Dilip BR was the manipulation of ITRs to secure access to non-genuine refunds," the ED alleged.

A probe found that the accused "exploited" vulnerabilities in the 'Kaveri' and 'Jamabandi' portals of Karnataka and Haryana state governments to gather data on non-resident taxpayers who had sold property in India with significant TDS (tax deducted at source) deductions, it said.

"Using Aadhaar and PAN (permanent account number) data from property records, he forged documents to open bank accounts

in the names of his targets, specifically choosing banks with lax KYC requirements," the ED claimed.

The accused then accessed the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department through these accounts, revised the ITRs to reduce tax liabilities and increased refund amounts, it alleged.

Finally, he used "fraudulent" accounts to transfer the refunds to bank accounts under his control, the agency claimed.

Preliminary investigation suggests that Dilip BR generated more than Rs 10 crore as proceeds of crime and laundered them into gold, jewellery, cash and investment into cryptocurrencies, it claimed.

According to the ED, the man is a "habitual offender" involved in multiple offences such as bank loan fraud and identity theft cases. He "assumed" multiple identities and obtained multiple PANs using different names such as Dilip BR alias Dilip Rajegowda alias Dilip Balaganchi Rajegowda.

IN CITY

-PTI

Drunken brawl claims life

A construction worker succumbed to injuries sustained in a violent altercation two days ago. The incident occurred near Triveni Cinema, within Upparpet police station limits, when a group of six to seven individuals engaged in a drunken argument late at night.

During the ruckus, Nagesh (30), was fatally attacked by one of the accused. He was rushed to a nearby hospital in critical condition but passed away on Tuesday. The Upparpet police have registered a case of murder. The police are also gathering more details about Nagesh's background and are working to establish the identities. Currently, the case is under investigation.

-BMB

Brokers exploit system, students pay the price

Scam in engineering admissions redirected 2,625 seats to private colleges; authorities investigate middlemen

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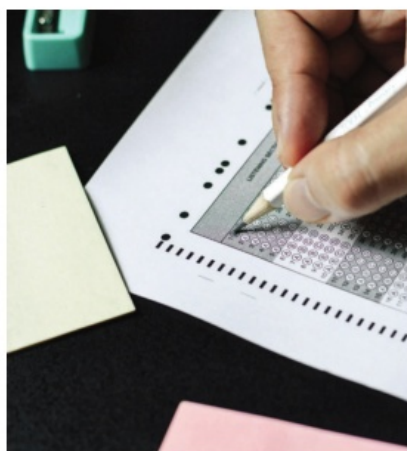
A seat-blocking scam has disrupted Karnataka's engineering admissions this year, with brokers exploiting student credentials to manipulate the process. Acting on a complaint from the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), the Malleshwaram police have filed an FIR, uncovering a network that redirected seats meant for deserving candidates to private colleges.

How the scam unfolded

The KEA's complaint highlights irregularities in the seat allocation process, specifically during the second advanced round of admissions. A total of 2,625 students failed to join their allotted colleges despite securing seats in reputed institutions, such as BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute of Engineering & Technology, and New Horizon College of Engineering.

Each student appearing for the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) 2024 was provided with a unique login ID, password, and secret key by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). These credentials were essential for entering seat preferences during the option-entry rounds. It is suspected that brokers, either through phishing attacks or coercion, obtained these sensitive credentials from unsuspecting students. Using these credentials, brokers entered specific seat preferences in top colleges, ensuring that the seats would be blocked for their clients or for colleges they had financial arrangements with.

Students allegedly shared their login credentials comprising IDs, passwords, and



Brokers are suspected of stealing credentials via phishing or coercion

KEA issues show-cause notice to 2,625 students for missing college admissions. Some claim identity theft and others admit to collaborating with brokers

secret keys enabling brokers to manipulate the option entry process. Investigators found multiple option entries originating from specific Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, pointing to a coordinated effort to block seats for financial gains. This practice left several government-quota seats vacant, depriving legitimate candidates of opportunities.

Legal action

The FIR registered under Sections 316/2 (criminal breach of trust) and 318/4 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, along with provisions under the Information Technology (IT) Act 66B and 66C, targets identity theft and misuse of computer resources. Investigators are focusing on tracing the IP addresses used for unauthorised option entries, identifying brokers, and examining the potential involvement of college authorities.

The KEA has also issued show-cause notices to the 2,625 students who failed to

join their allotted colleges. Preliminary investigations reveal that some students were unwitting victims of identity theft, while others willingly collaborated with brokers. Five students have submitted affidavits claiming they did not know option entries made on their behalf suggesting their credentials were stolen.

As per the agreement with professional institutions, all candidates allotted seats by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) must be admitted without any exceptions. After the second extended round of counselling, KEA is required to provide a branch-wise vacancy list to the respective colleges. Colleges, in turn, must report vacant seats during reconciliation and approval. However, complaints have surfaced alleging that some colleges exploit this system by securing seats for students who do not intend to join, thereby ensuring those seats remain unfilled. This manipulation allows colleges to later allocate these seats under the management quota for higher fees, even to candidates with lower merit.

In this context, a total of 2,625 students who failed to join their allotted colleges after the second advanced round will be issued show-cause notices. Of these, 920 students have submitted written explanations, which are currently under review.

KEA's future reforms

KEA has instructed its administrative officer to identify middlemen manipulating student credentials. Strict action will follow against these intermediaries and any involved college management. The government has proposed changes to next year's agreement to prevent such irregularities, including ensuring unfilled government quota seats in private colleges after the second extended round are transparently allotted through KEA. The Malleshwaram police, in coordination with the KEA, are working to trace the brokers and their network. The Deputy Commissioner of Police North Division, Saidulu Adavath stated that the investigation into the matter is currently underway. They are awaiting crucial data from the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) to proceed further.

BM WoW Week

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This is a busy week so music-lovers can win big. Watch this space daily so you won't miss out!

BBMP clears projects without scrutiny

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials from the Revenue and Town Planning Departments often approve building plans or amalgamate properties without properly verifying documents or inspecting sites. This lack of scrutiny can lead to significant issues for adjacent property owners. BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Gandhinagar Ward No 94) allegedly approved the amalgamation of three sale deeds into one property for SN Umesh and T Manjula without verifying their connection to the existing land and site visit or proper scrutiny of the documents.

Documents obtained by BM reveal that Umesh and Manjula own a 2,647 sq ft property behind Srinivasa Mandira Road and Raja Hussain Sab Dargah, which is unrelated to the 2,400 sq ft property of the late BM Muniswamappa on Dharmambudi Tank Road and Poornaiah Chatram Road. The BBMP AEE sanctioned the building plan not only for Umesh and Manjula's property but also for part of the land belonging to BM Muniswamappa. The sale deeds indicate that the land schedule does not match the demolished



The site in question

structure, known as the Lake View Building, opposite Upparpet Police Station.

Yatish M, the great-grandson of BM Muniswamappa, filed several complaints with the authorities, including Upparpet Police, BBMP Chief Commissioner, Joint Commissioner (West), and the Assistant Director of Town Planning (West), and Karnataka Lokayukta. Authorities are yet to take action.

Procedure for site inspection

The designated officers may inspect the site with or without the applicant. However, if the inspection is carried out in the absence of the applicant or their authorised representative, and further assistance is required, the officer may request the applicant or their representative to be present for the inspection. The officers shall inspect the site and upload the site inspection report within 48 hours of site inspection.

Kalaburagi's cybercrime lab to lead the way

Set to be operational in 2-3 months, Cyber Crime Lab will help educate public about digital threats, aid cops in solving cybercrime cases in rural areas

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Cybercrimes are no longer limited to urban centres like Bengaluru. In fact, rural areas are increasingly facing threats such as fake news, morphing of pictures, AI-generated images etc. Rural Karnataka has become increasingly vulnerable to digital threats, where many people remain unaware of the dangers posed by such technologies.

In response to this growing concern and to empower rural areas with the knowledge and tools to fight cybercrime, the Kalyan Karnataka Regional Development Board has sanctioned the establishment of a 'Cyber Crime Lab' at the police training centre in Kalaburagi. This 'first-of-its-kind' lab in North Karnataka is a significant step towards decentralising cybercrime investigations and enhancing cyber security across the state.

"When I served as IG in the region in 2017, I saw firsthand how incidents like fake news and manipulated images were exploited to stir communal violence," said Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Training. "These issues are particularly rampant in rural areas where people often lack awareness about the manipulation of content, such



'The lab is a crucial development for rural areas, where such facilities were previously unavailable'

With this lab, we can not only improve skills of local police officers but also educate public about how to identify & combat digital threats

— Alok Kumar, ADGP Training

as photo morphing and AI-generated fake images."

Superintendents of Police (SPs) from various districts in Karnataka have started conducting awareness programs in their districts on cybercrimes. The lab will be equipped with the latest technology, including software and hardware capable of investigating cybercrimes such as data breaches, online fraud, and manipulation of digital content. Rs 16.70 lakh has been allocated for the construction of the lab, with an additional Rs 42.15 lakh for the procurement of necessary equipment and software.

"We are committed to bringing the latest tools and technologies to North Karnataka to address the increasing challenges posed by cybercrimes," said IPS officer Alok Kumar. "This lab will decentralise cybercrime investigations,

enabling local police to handle many cases at the regional level without needing to travel to Bengaluru for assistance. It's a crucial development for rural areas, where such facilities were previously unavailable."

Initiative will train local police & students

Additionally, the Cyber Crime Lab will also serve as an educational hub for meritorious students from the region. The lab will offer training and certification in cyber security, equipping students with the skills necessary for future careers in cybercrime prevention. This initiative will not only enhance local job prospects but also help build a workforce capable of addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities in the digital age.

The facility will also provide

local police officers with hands-on training in cyber forensics, enabling them to extract data from mobile devices, social media platforms, and other digital sources. This will improve their ability to investigate and resolve cybercrimes locally, reducing the need for officers to travel to Bengaluru or other urban centres for basic enquiries and investigations.

Lab expected to be ready in 2-3 months

The Cyber Crime Lab is expected to be operational within two to three months. Construction work is set to be completed in 45 to 60 days, after which the necessary hardware and software will be installed.

The lab will also be serving as a critical resource for spreading awareness about the dangers of fake news, AI manipulation, and other forms of digital fraud. "With this lab, we can not only improve the skills of local police officers but also educate the public about how to identify and combat digital threats," said Kumar.

Officials receive notice over inaction in land grabbing case

The City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH Court) has issued an emergency notice to the Commissioner of Police and the Station House Officer (SHO) of Hennur Police Station following allegations of police inaction in a land-grabbing case. The notice comes after a complaint by Horamavu resident Saji Joseph (58), who accused his wife, Sini Saji, and others, including Gopi alias Hennur Gopi, of attempting to illegally seize his property.

According to Saji's petition, on November 1, 2024, Sini Saji, accompanied by Gopi, other associates, and a ferocious Rottweiler, forcibly trespassed onto his property. Saji alleged that the group, armed with lethal weapons, detained him illegally, with police officials allegedly complicit in the act. He further claimed that Gopi has close ties to local police and politicians, enabling the group to occupy his property and create public nuisance.

CCH Court has issued urgent summons to all defendants involved in case

Despite filing complaints with the police and higher authorities, including the Director General & Inspector General (DG & IG) of Karnataka, the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, and the Organised Crime Wing of the CCB, Saji asserted that no action was taken. This led him to approach the court seeking legal intervention.

In his plea, Saji requested the court to prevent further trespassing, ensure his safety, and restrain the police from supporting the accused. Acting on the interim application, the court issued urgent summons to the defendants, including the Commissioner of Police and the SHO of Hennur Police Station, and adjourned the case to December 17, 2024.

—BMB

CORRIGENDUM

In Bangalore Mirror edition dated November 19, we had a story '2 arrested for mobile phone theft, smuggling'. The story inadvertently mentioned DTDC managers to be the accused. The story has since been rectified to correctly indicate that it was a DTDC manager who had filed the complaint against the accused. The error is regretted.

Education dept reallocates unused grants to Chintamani

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Department of Higher Education has reallocated grants originally designated for government degree colleges in Bengaluru and other districts due to their prolonged failure to utilise the funds, according to the sources. These grants, which amounted to Rs 8.82 crore, released between 2012-13 and 2023-24, have now been redirected to three colleges in Chintamani and Kolar districts. Chintamani, represented by Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar, is among the key beneficiaries of this reallocation.

The funds were initially allocated

for construction projects in nine government degree colleges located in Bengaluru, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Koppal, and Mandya districts. However, none of these projects were implemented; projects worth Rs 7.87 crore remained unexecuted by the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB), while RITES Ltd failed to initiate two projects worth Rs 1.95 crore. In light of this, the department redirected the grants to colleges with pressing infrastructure needs: Rs 5 crore for Chintamani Government Degree College, Rs 2 crore for Kolar Government Degree College, and Rs 1.82 crore for Kolar Government Law College.

Addressing criticisms, Sudhakar defended the decision, stating that the reallocation is aimed at enhancing educational infrastructure for



'The reallocation of funds is aimed at enhancing educational infrastructure to colleges with pressing needs'

underprivileged students. He added, "What is wrong with ensuring development in my constituency? These funds, lying unused for years, are now being utilised to improve facilities in

colleges that cater to students in need. This is solely for the benefit of education."

The nine colleges that originally received the funds include Bengaluru's

Kadugodi Degree College, Chamarajanagar and Yelandur Degree Colleges, Mysuru's Maharani Science College for Women, Vijayanagar Degree College, Kuvempunagar Degree College, Shivamogga's Bhadravathi and Thirthahalli Degree Colleges, Koppal Degree College, and Mandya Degree College.

Conditions set for reallocated funds

Sources said that the Higher Education Department has set specific conditions for the reallocated funds, mandating that the KHB oversee and complete the construction projects within a stipulated timeline. Any delays will attract penalties, as instructed to the College Education Commissioner.

Encounter puts focus on Maoist movement

Tracking Naxalism in Karnataka and where it stands today

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The encounter involving Vikram Gowda has reignited attention on Maoist activities in Karnataka. Karnataka has witnessed Maoist activity on a smaller scale compared to states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. While many believed Naxalism had been eradicated in the state, this recent incident has brought the issue back into focus. Historically, the Malnad region became a stronghold for the Naxalite movement due to inadequate basic amenities and alleged harassment under the guise of reserved forest regulations. In 2000, local youth organised to address these grievances. However, disillusioned by the lack of progress through peaceful means, they adopted armed resistance under the leadership of Saketh Rajan, who underwent guerrilla warfare training in the forests.

Sources said that the first significant encounter between Naxalites and police occurred in Koppa taluk's Singasaru village. Later, in November 2003, during an operation in Eedu village,



Security personnel during combing operation in Kabbinala forest area

Dakshina Kannada, Naxalites Fatima and Parvathi were killed in an encounter, marking the first casualties of the movement. Between 2005 and 2008, encounters resulted in the loss of 12 Naxalites. Facing setbacks, including health issues and operational challenges, the group dwindled. Many turned to Kerala, where some, like BG Krishnamurthy, eventually surrendered. Leadership has since transitioned, with Latha considered a potential successor.

On the other hand, the locals worried as after years of dormancy, Naxal activities in coastal Karnataka have resurged over the last six months, marked by the

recent encounter involving Vikram Gowda. The coastal regions of Karkala, Subramanya, Belthangady, Kundapur, and Kollur were once hotbeds of Naxal activity for over two decades. However, strict measures by the government had quelled their presence. Recent crack-downs in Kerala and Jharkhand have made these regions increasingly hostile

for Naxals, possibly prompting their return to Karnataka's Western Ghats, coinciding with debates on the Kasturirangan report on forest conservation.

Recent sightings and activities

In March-April 2024, Naxals were reportedly spotted in Kodagu, Madikeri, and Subramanya. Villagers in

affected areas have expressed fear over the resurgence of Naxals. Increased police patrols, ANF (Anti-Naxal Force) operations, and roadblocks have disrupted daily life. Suspicion lingers over individuals travelling through the dense forests. A police official said, "The government's ongoing efforts are critical as the region braces for the possibility of escalating tensions in the Western Ghats."

Major Maoist encounters

- November 17, 2003:** Fatima, Parvathi (Eedu Village)
- February 6, 2005:** Saketh Rajan, Shivalingu
- December 25, 2006:** Divakar (Kesu Muddi)
- November 18, 2008:** Manohar, Naveen, Abhishek (Mavinahola)
- November 19, 2024:** Vikram Gowda (Kabbinala)

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CM gives reasons for encounter

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday appeared to justify the killing of Maoist leader Vikram Gowda in an encounter with the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF), noting that he faced multiple criminal cases and also chose to ignore the government's direction to lay down arms and join the mainstream. Home Minister G Parameshwara said Gowda was carrying "deadly" weapons, and rejected calls for a probe into the killing. "There is a standing order. We have said that if they (Naxals) surrender they will be given all the facilities. He (Gowda) did not surrender. Kerala government had announced Rs 25 lakh reward on him, our government had announced Rs 5 lakh reward," Siddaramaiah said. Gowda (46) was killed in an alleged exchange of fire between the ANF and a group of Maoists near Peetebalu village in the Kabbinala area near Hebri of Udupi district. According to officials, he was one of the most wanted Maoist leaders from Karnataka, facing 61 cases, including murder and extortion, in the state and 19 in Kerala. Parameshwara said there are more than 60 cases against

Gowda, including murder charges. "He (Gowda) was carrying a deadly weapon, an automatic machine gun-like weapon. If they (ANF personnel) did not shoot him, he would have fired at them. So I'm told that he was shot at first sight. So there is no need to suspect anything," he said. "Further details I can share once it comes to me in writing from the department," Parameshwara added. Reacting to Karkala BJP MLA V Sunil Kumar's statement that Naxal activities had surged after the Congress came to power last year, the Minister noted that the incident happened in his constituency, Karkala, where the ANF is also headquartered. "The ANF had constantly been keeping a watch on Naxal activities. Until recently there was nothing. Fifteen days ago two persons named Latha and Raju, who are Naxal leaders, were sighted and I was reported about it. So the Internal Security Division (ISD) started a combing operation. Meanwhile, information about Gowda came and ANF were trying to track him and the 'encounter' has happened," he said.

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Cascading effect of urbanisation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accompanied by a large drop in the open space coupled with a decrease in agricultural land.

Lake water quality assessment report shows that faecal coliform, total coliform, dissolved oxygen, and biochemical oxygen demand levels exceeded standard limits.

Other six lakes that have been studied as part of the lake series include Bidarahalli Kere, Rampura Lake, Kithaganur Lake, Bhattarahalli Lake, Seeghalli Lake, and Chinnagenahalli Lake.

Unsustainable urbanisation

Experts say the interconnected systems of lakes of Bengaluru, experience tremendous stress due to unsustainable urbanisation.

Detailed analysis of the lake series showed that while pollutant flushing during monsoon reduced pollution load in upstream lakes, high wastewater inflow made downstream lakes, particularly the end lake, highly polluted.

The study indicates that spatial interdependence and cascading effects necessitate a lake series approach for assessing the impacts of urbanisation on interconnected



lake systems, which is crucial for enhancing water security and preparedness for future extreme events.

"Increased water availability expanded the user base of the end lake, but traditional uses have declined and coping strategies of users, such as wastewater lift irrigation from the lake, became unsustainable. Traditional lake-centric research approaches struggle to capture and address this issue due to the cascaded nature of impacts in interconnected lake systems. Hence, this study assesses the impact of urbanisation on a lake series scale, focusing on the Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake series," noted the study published in the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment journal.

Encroached waterbody
The waterbody, spread over 500

acres, has been in the news for encroachment issues.

Notably, an inspection report of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) a couple of months ago showed that the lake's buffer zone is encroached upon by residential layouts. The report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) further highlighted that two residential layouts are within the lake buffer zone apart from a burial ground.

These apart, KSPCB also found a few industrial units such as waste paper/ plastic baling units and scrap yards within the lake buffer.

The state pollution control board had also underlined that the chain link fencing work taken up by the Minor Irrigation Department in December last year is partially completed. Only 3 km out of the total perimeter of 9.3 km have been secured so far.

Plans afoot to develop green corridors along buffer zones

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

activities, contributing to flooding and property damage during the monsoon."

6 key development projects

Another BBMP official added that six major projects have been identified to mitigate these issues. "One involves identifying specific areas for relocating trunk lines currently installed in stormwater drains, which have led to contamination of both drains and lakes. The civic body also plans to construct a 100-km service road along the stormwater drains at an estimated cost of 200 crore to ease traffic congestion and enhance connectivity. Private properties in buffer zones will be acquired through Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) instead of cash compensation. This approach aims to clear encroachments and facilitate infrastructure expansion without legal or financial hurdles," he said.

Green urban spaces

Officials said that the BBMP is also exploring the creation of green corridors along buffer zones by developing

tree-lined boulevards and utilizing unused spaces for public amenities.

The BBMP has identified several focus areas for the initial phase of its development projects, which include constructing service roads and addressing encroachments in key regions. These areas include the stretch from Hebbal Military Area to Ballari Road via Yogeshwar Nagar Main Road, Dasarahalli Main Road to Hennur Main Road via Thanisandra Main Road, RR Nagar to Vrishabhavathi Legacy Road via Nayandahalli Service Road, and Yelahanka NH-7 Service Road to Jakkur Raithana Santhe Road. To execute these projects, the civic body plans to acquire private properties located within buffer zones using the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) mechanism, ensuring adherence to stormwater drain classifications.

"In the long term, the BBMP envisions constructing 24-metre-wide roads in buffer zones around primary stormwater drains and 18-metre-wide roads in zones surrounding secondary drains, while dedicating the remaining areas to green pathways. The plan includes developing public zones in underutilised spaces along stormwater drains," claimed an official.

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I, Jyothi W/o B K Ravindra Chari R/o 75 SMS Layout 19th Main 20th Cross, JP Nagar 5th Phase B'luru- 560078 have changed my name to Jyothi Ravindrachari for all purposes.

I, Sher Ali Mohamed S/o Mohammed Ali R/o 60/1 Lulu Hombs Flat No-102 1st floor Khazeb Rd B'lure-560004 have changed my name to Sher Ali.

I, Mujeeb Rahman Valliyampalli S/o Alavi Valliyampalli R/o 100/3 3rd Flr, 2nd house, Doddamuthappa garden, Tavarekere road BTM, 1st stg. B'luru 560029 have changed my name to Mujeeb Rahman Affidavit Dt.20/11/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Vinod Kumar Dandgund S/o Suryakant Dandgund No.00-282 14-272, Sharana Nagar, Shahabad 585228. I Have changed My Name From VINOD KUMAR.D To VINOD KUMAR DANDGUND. Vide Affidavite Dated:12.11.2024. Sworn Before Notary: D.G. Shanthappa.

I HARSHITHA, D/o, Dayananda Veerappa Kulal, R/o, D no 4-71/5, Kanasu, Badagayekkaru Village, Yekkar post, Kenchagudde, Mangalore -574509 have changed my name to HARSHITHA BANGERA for all purposes.

I, Dipti, R/o Villa 37, Pocket 5, Vasanth Vihar AWHO, Billamaranahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 562157 have changed my name to Dipti Shreenath. Affidavit Dt 20/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Najma Amjad w/o Amjadulla Mohammed Nazeerulla R/o 486 2nd Flr Nr Nimra masjid Ilyaz Nagar J P Nagar B'lure-560078 have changed my name to Najma Begum.

I, Naziya Taj Hajira W/o Syed Ali R/o 60/1 Lulu Hombs Flat No-102 1st floor Khazeb Rd B'lure-560004 have changed my name to Nazia Taj

I, Habeeb Ur Rahman S/o Khalil Ahmed R/o 18/1 1st Floor 5th Main Rao SK Garden B'lure-560026 have changed my name to Habeeb Ur Rehman.

I, Muneera Begum W/o Habeeb Ur Rehman R/o 18/1 1st Floor 5th Main Rao SK Garden B'lure-560026 have changed my name to Muneera.

I, SHRAVAN KUMAR YEASU SRIRAMULU S/o Sreeramulu Yeasu, R/at No.22/1/40, Sri Sai Durga Enclave, Agrahara Village, Yelahanka Bangalore-560064 have changed my name to SHRAVAN KUMAR YEASU SREERAMULU vide affidavit dated: 19/11/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhar Bangalore.

I, TAHIRA BEGAM w/o Mahiuddin Khan R/a #36, 37th cross, 19th main, 1st stage, 5th block, HBR layout, Kalyan nagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to TAHIRA BANO vide affidavit dated 19.11.2024 before notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore

I, Mahesha Dyavappa R/o Flat.S05, Keerthana Shelters, 6th main, 2nd Phase, Judicial Lyt, Talagattapura, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to Mahesh Dyavappa Affidavit Dt.20/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Jayanthi Mohankumar W/o Mohankumar GR R/o 4/5, 3rd main, E - block, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru 560010 have changed my name to Jayanthi Mohan Affidavit Dt.20/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Mohammad Hanif s/o Isubu Byari, R/o #34 K.N.143/2/34 1st Flr Medina Nagar Mangamm - anapalya Popular Colony Venkoji Road Bommanahalli B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Mohammed Haneef for all purposes.

I, Anand Reddy Muni Reddy R/o No.18/1, Sree Srinivasa Nilaya, 3rd main, 3rd cross, Madiwala Extn, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Ananda Reddy Muni Reddy Affidavit Dt.20/11/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, NIKHAT ANJUM ABDUL MAJEED W/o Mohammed Muzammil R/o 106, 2 Main, 2 A Cross, New Extn Madivala, Bangalore-560068 changed my name to NIKHAT ANJUM'



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Mold growth in your home can be unsettling. Blackened spots and dusty patches on the walls are signs that something is amiss, but it is important to distinguish between mold growth that is a nuisance and mold growth that may be harmful.

There are more than 1 million species of fungi. Some are used to produce important medications. Others can cause life-threatening infections when they grow in the body.

Microscopic fungi that grow in homes are a problem because they can trigger asthma and other allergies. In my work as a fungal biologist, however, I have yet to encounter robust scientific evidence to support claims that indoor molds are responsible for other serious illnesses.

What are molds?

Molds are microscopic fungi that grow on everything. This may sound like an exaggeration, but pick any material and a mold will be there, from the leaves on your houseplant to the grain in your pantry and every pinch of soil on the ground. They form splotches on the outside of buildings, grow in crevices on concrete paths and roads, and even live peacefully on our bodies.

Molds are important players in life on Earth. They're great recyclers that fertilize the planet with fresh nutrients as they rot organic materials. Mildew is another word for mold.

Fungi, including molds, produce microscopic, seed-like particles called spores that spread in the air. Mold spores are produced on stalks. There are so many of these spores that you inhale them with every breath. Thousands could fit within the period at the end of this sentence.

When these spores land on surfaces, they germinate to form threads that elongate, and they branch to create spidery colonies that expand into circular patches. After mold colonies have grown for a few days, they start producing a new generation of spores.

Where do indoor molds grow?

Molds can grow in any building. Even in the cleanest homes, there will be traces of mold growth beneath bathroom and kitchen sinks. They're also likely to grow on shower curtains, as well as in sink drains, dishwashers and washing machines.

Molds grow wherever water collects, but they become a problem in buildings only when there is a persistent plumbing leak, or in flooded homes.

There are many species of indoor molds, which an expert can identify by looking at their spores with a microscope.

The types of molds that grow in homes include species of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*, which are difficult to tell apart. These are joined by *Cladosporium* and *Chaetomium*, which loves to grow on wet carpets.

FUNGI IN THE HOUSE

Should I worry about mold growing in my home?



Stachybotrys is another common fungus in homes. I've found it under plant pots in my living room.

When does mold growth become a problem?

Problematic mold growth occurs when drywall becomes soaked through and mold colonies develop into large, brown or black patches. If the damaged area is smaller than a pizza box, you can probably clean it yourself. But more extensive mold growth often requires removing and replacing the drywall. Either way, solving the plumbing leak or protecting the home from flooding is essential to prevent the mold from returning.

In cases of severe mold growth, you can hire an indoor air quality specialist to measure the concentration of airborne spores in the home. Low concentrations of spores are normal and present no hazard, but high concentrations of spores can cause allergies.

During air testing, a specialist will sample the air inside and outside the home on the same day. If the level of spores measured in

indoor air is much higher than the level measured in the outdoor air, molds are likely growing somewhere inside the home.

Another indication of mold growth inside the home is the presence of different kinds of molds in the outdoor and indoor air. Professional air sampling will identify both of these issues.

Why are indoor molds a problem?

Indoor molds present three problems. First, they create an unappealing living space by discoloring surfaces and creating unpleasant, moldy smells. Second, their spores, which float in the air, can cause asthma and allergic rhinitis, or hay fever.

Finally, some molds produce poisonous chemicals called mycotoxins. There is no scientific evidence linking mycotoxins produced by indoor molds to illnesses among homeowners. But mycotoxins could cause problems in the most severe cases of mold damage – usually in flooded homes. Irrespective of mycotoxin problems, you should treat mold

growth in these more severe situations to prevent allergies.

The mold called *Stachybotrys* has been called the toxic black mold since its growth was linked to lung bleeding in infants in Cleveland in the 1990s. This fungus grows on drywall when it becomes soaked with water and produces a range of mycotoxins.

Black mold spores are sticky and are not blown into the air very easily. This behavior limits the number of spores that anyone around will likely inhale, and it means that any dose of the toxins you might absorb from indoor mold is vanishingly small. But the developing lungs of babies and children are particularly vulnerable to damage. This is why it is important to limit mold growth in homes and address the sources of moisture that stimulate its development.

Knowing when indoor molds require attention is a useful skill for every homeowner and can allow them to avoid unnecessary stress.

Nicholas Money, Miami University, *The Conversation*.



All you need to know about...

Dry eyes, allergies

Toxic pollutants

Even as the national capital continues to battle poor air quality, experts on Wednesday said that the toxic pollutants are raising dry eyes, irritations, and allergies in the eyes of children and adults.

Threat to eyes

"Pollution poses a serious threat to our eyes, particularly to the conjunctiva and the cornea, which is the first point of contact with harmful particles in the air. The fine particulate matter, allergens, and toxins in polluted environments can irritate the ocular surface and make it highly susceptible to infections," Dr. Rohit Saxena, professor of ophthalmology, R P Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS New Delhi, told IANS.

"This is especially of concern in children and adults already experiencing dry eyes or allergic reactions, as these conditions worsen with exposure to poor air quality," he added.

PM10 risks

A recent study by researchers from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus showed that people living in areas with increased exposure to PM10 can be twice more at risk of suffering eye infections. The study showed that clinical visits by patients suffering ocular surface eye conditions -- that affect the eye surface, including the cornea, conjunctiva, and eyelids -- more than doubled when ambient particulate matter from air pollution was in the atmosphere.

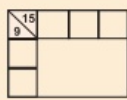
Discomfort

Air pollution can significantly affect eye health causing discomfort and irritation. The polluted air carries suspended particles, dust, and pollutants which can irritate the eyes. Common symptoms include itching, watering, burning, redness, and a general feeling of soreness.

"In severe cases, air pollution may lead to pain or blurred vision, requiring immediate medical attention," Dr. Smriti Goel, Consultant - Eye Surgery, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Patparganj, told IANS. —IANS

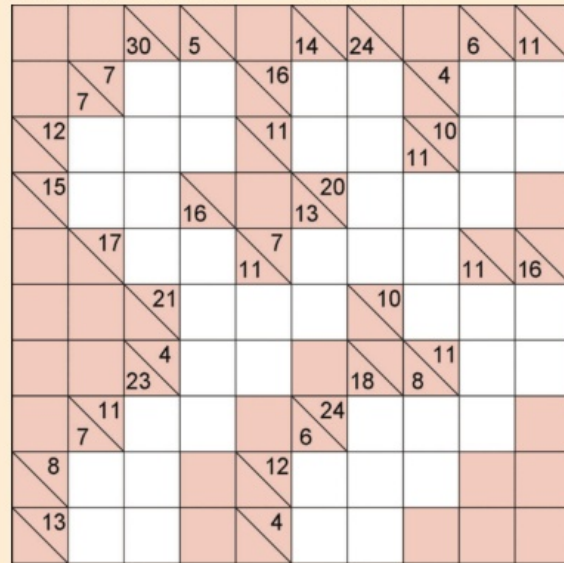
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Be very delicately poised? (4,2,1,6)
- 8 Suave and refined (8)
- 9 Microbe (4)
- 10 Gets the better of (7)
- 12 Sums owing (5)
- 14 Lightheaded (5)
- 16 Ties the knot (7)
- 19 Distort (4)
- 20 All-purpose sidekick (8)
- 22 Hot-headed (5-8)

DOWN

- 1 Foundation (4)
- 2 Overlook or pass by (6)
- 3 Family reign (7)
- 4 Fable (5)
- 5 Irish accent (6)
- 6 Execute by strangulation (8)
- 11 Tomb inscriptions (8)
- 13 Where three rivers meet in Karnataka (7)
- 15 Evict an alien (6)
- 17 Teased; made fun of (6)
- 18 Revises copy (5)
- 21 Carries out (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS T
 VQXVQVNU DJGU VB NLU JQDO
 NEKNL. UGUEONLVQS UDBU VB
 VDDKBVJQ.



Linemaro

When I saw you, for a moment, I thought I had gone to heaven. Then I realised heaven had been brought to me



Mindchow

Two things define you: Your patience when you have nothing, and your attitude when you have everything



Joke of the day

A man doesn't know what happiness is until he's married. By then, it's too late

Loop

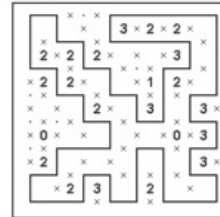
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

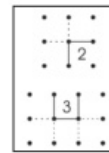
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

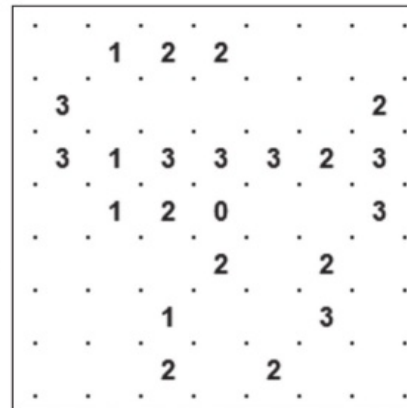
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



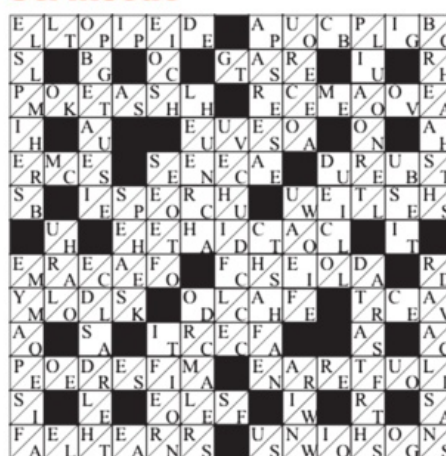
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

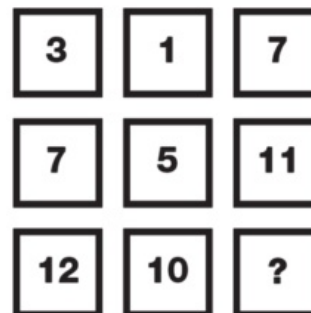
- 1 Sec SP; 6 At arc;
- 7 In CIA; 8 Crone;
- 9 R pang

DOWN

- 1 Scrap; 2 Grape;
- 3 Ceria; 4 On Can;
- 5 Tings

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



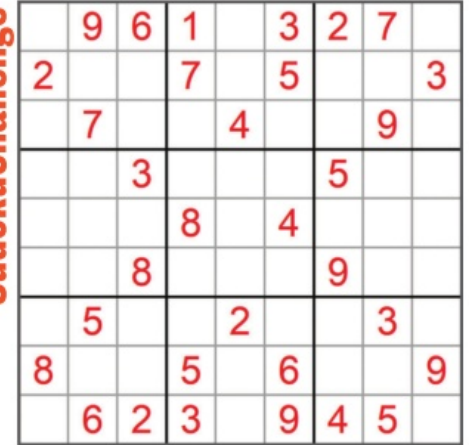
Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; 09 Good; 11 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 3$

$\square \square \square \square = 26$

$\square \square \square \square = 9$

$\square \square \square \square = 9$

$\square \square \square \square = 9$

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's fingers are not showing. 2. Man's sand which is shorter. 3. Boy's cap is reversed. 4. Jacket collar is different. 5. Coffee pot handle is missing. 6. Apron is longer.

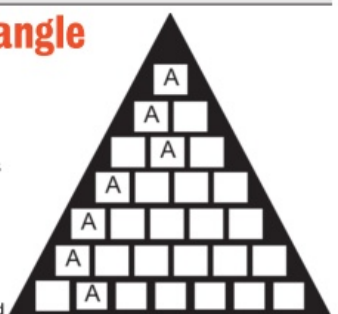
Riddler

What is half of 8, yet isn't 2 x 2, 0 also isn't what I'm looking for from you.

Alpha triangle

- 1 First letter
- 2 Anno Domini
- 3 Wander about
- 4 Full of years
- 5 Old saw
- 6 Order of business
- 7 Tourniquet

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



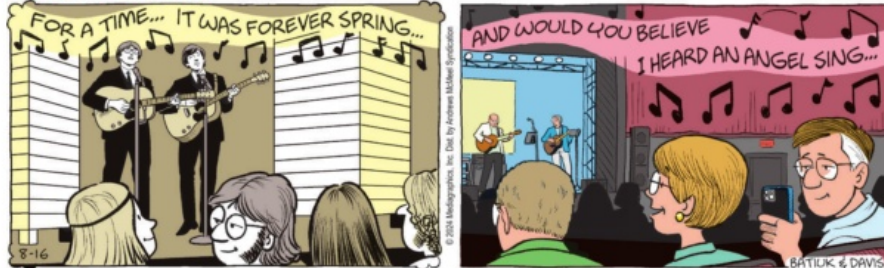
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, situations are under control, and you may find yourself overcoming recent challenges. Working patiently may improve your approach. You might likely plan an outing. Students are likely to focus well on their goals. Singles may find love with the help of friends or family.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may help those in need; this act may enhance your reputation. Implementing innovative ideas at work could bring positive results, making you happy. Lovebirds may plan an outing or an adventure together.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you are blessed with peace of mind. Although work stress may arise, a calm inner sense helps you balance things. New income sources could boost your savings, making both work and home life more enjoyable.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may feel unhappy and experience mood swings, which could affect harmony at home. Impatience and arrogance at work might create hidden tensions with colleagues. It's best to stay calm and avoid rushing while driving.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may feel a sense of dissatisfaction and detachment from responsibilities, leading to confusion. Hypothetical planning may delay projects, so it's best to stay practical. You are advised to consider postponing relocation plans and taking a more measured approach.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may feel dull and could face health issues. Sleeplessness might lead to irritability, affecting domestic harmony. Financial decisions may need careful consideration to avoid losses, so think twice before any transactions.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may feel joyful, spreading happiness around you. Harmony may prevail in your personal life, and romantic moments with your spouse are likely. Family support could help with important decisions, and you may consider new business ventures or partnerships.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may feel enthusiastic and focused, helping to speed up postponed projects. Siblings may support a new project, which could bring profits soon. You may also plan for some family-related short trips. Job seekers may receive good news.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may feel energetic. Previous losses may turn into profits, enhancing business growth and liquidity. With help from your subordinates, you may make critical business decisions, earning praise from seniors. Incentives could boost your savings.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, the positive influence of the moon may bring happiness. Your patience at work could lead to good performance and rewards. Family health issues may improve now. Job seekers are likely to find promising opportunities. Lovebirds may enjoy quality time together.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may control unnecessary spending, improving your finances. You might use your creativity to enhance your home or office, boosting your social status. Lovebirds could receive family support, and students might hear positive academic news.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

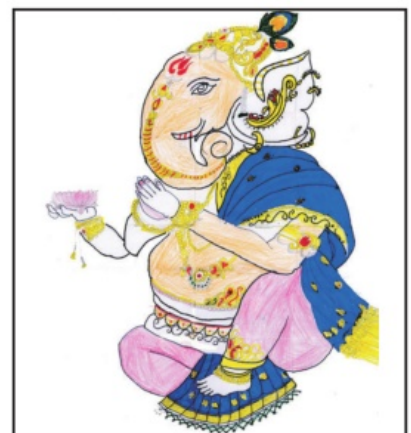
Today, you may be busy with work, making wise decisions that enhance your business. A significant order may expand your workload. Creativity may lead you to renovate your space; this may improve your social status. You might also invest in creative assets.



KIDZONE



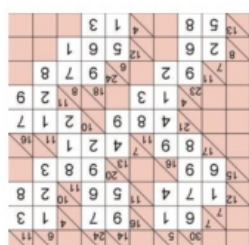
Greeshma Sudhir, Bengaluru



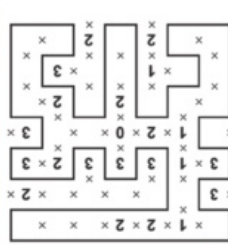
M Appu, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

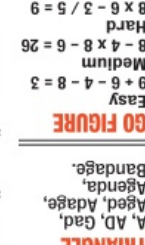
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



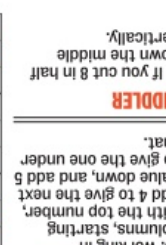
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



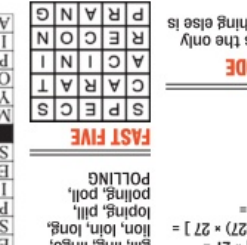
MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BILL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

Personal invitations

Sobhita curates invites for guests to her wedding

Fans are eagerly awaiting the wedding of Sobhita Dhulipala and Naga Chaitanya, as the couple has already kickstarted their pre wedding festivities with a Godhuma Raayi Pasupu Danchatam ceremony last month.

Sobhita's wedding invite is not just a piece of paper but a thoughtfully curated collection of memories and traditions that reflect her upbringing.

A source who received the exquisite wedding invite revealed, "Sobhita is so happy to do this. She personally packed her wedding invites for around 100 guests and found immense joy in the process. She curated a handwoven basket containing little things she grew up loving, including handmade Kondapalli dancing dolls, old-school bath essentials, a filter coffee kit, Nalla-Kaaram Podi, Sunnundalu, and fresh mogra gajras."

Through these thoughtful inclusions, Sobhita's wedding invite goes beyond being a mere announcement; it is a celebration of heritage, home, and the small, meaningful things that have shaped her life.

Her fans and wellwishers are now eagerly looking forward to the wedding, inspired by the actress' grounded and heartfelt approach to this mile-

stone Sobhita and Naga Chaitanya got engaged in an intimate ceremony at Chaitanya's Hyderabad residence in August. The couple shared official pictures on their social media handles on August 8. While there are reports suggesting that the duo will get married on December 4, an official confirmation is awaited.

On the work front, Naga Chaitanya is gearing up for the release of Thandel.

— ETimes



Glimpse of shoot

Pooja Hegde, who will next be seen in the upcoming film "Thalapathy 69", is currently filming the movie in Chennai.

The actress will star alongside Thalapathy Vijay. Recently, Hegde took to her Instagram story to share a serene view of Chennai, where the team is shooting. She captioned the post, "Chennai Mornings Day 16," revealing that her day started early at 6:30 a.m., along with the hashtag #T69.

Scheduled for release in October 2025 across multiple languages, including Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi, "Thalapathy 69" is set to be a monumental tribute to Vijay's legacy. The movie will be directed by H. Vinod and produced by Venkat K.

Narayana under KVN Productions.

The film commenced with a traditional puja ceremony on October 4. The makers shared pictures of the cast and crew, captioning, "I know there are happy smiles by adding pictures and looking at your boss. Updates are still not complete... Set 2 Incoming".

The event gathered a remarkable ensemble of cast and crew, featuring Thalapathy Vijay, Bobby Deol, and Pooja Hegde. Thalapathy 69 also stars filmmaker-actor Gautham Vasudev Menon, National Award-winning actress Priyamani, veteran actor Prakash Raj, and 'Premalu' fame actor Mamitha Baiju.

Meanwhile, Pooja Hegde has other upcoming films, including "Deva" and "Suriya 44." — IANS



Angelina Jolie in 'Stitches'

Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie is set to star in 'Stitches', a new high-fashion drama directed by Alice Winocour.

The film is confirmed to begin production in Paris, according to Deadline.

While specific plot details are being kept under wraps, the movie will explore the world of high fashion, with the story unfolding primarily in the French capital, reported Deadline. 'Stitches' will be shot in both French and English, similar to Winocour's previous project 'Proxima', which garnered significant attention for its



portrayal of an astronaut's struggles balancing professional aspirations with motherhood.

Winocour is once again collaborating with Pathe Films on this project, after the success of her critically acclaimed film 'Paris Memories'.

The film that premiered at the Cannes Directors' Fortnight project, earned actress Virginie Efira a Cesar Award. Jolie also has the highly awaited biographical film 'Maria', in which she will portray opera legend Maria Callas coming up.

— ANI

Workout done right

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has turned into a fitness enthusiast as he shared a glimpse of his "Wednesday workout".

Arjun took to his Instagram stories, where he shared a mirror selfie while he was walking on the treadmill. In the clip, the actor is seen shirtless as he walks on in sweatpants and sneakers.

"Wednesday Workout Done! 20 Nov 2024," wrote the actor as the caption. On the professional front, Arjun is currently riding high on the success of his latest release "Singham Again". He likened his character of Danger Lanka to his debut role Parma Chauhan from the 2012 film "Ishaqzaade".

The film, which has been given a spin of Ramayana, has an extensive lineup which includes names such as Ajay



Devgn in the title role, alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Tiger Shroff, and Jackie Shroff. It is the fifth installment of Shetty's Cop Universe franchise. Upon its release, director Rohit Shetty said that "Singham Again" became his 10th and fastest Rs. 100 crore movie.

— IANS



Two strokes of luck

Director Hari Santhosh is on Cloud nine after announcing two movies – Disco and Congratulations Brother – on Monday. Santosh is known for his debut with Alemari more than a decade ago. He has already helmed around 10 Kannada movies and one Telugu movie. Venkat Narayan of KVN Productions and Ravikumar unveiled the posters of the two movies. Dayanad of DS-MAX and prominent personalities of Sandalwood graced the function.

On the occasion, Hari Santhosh said that Disco is the nickname of the hero (Vikky Varun). "It is our second movie together. Vikky Varun acted in the movie College Kumar directed by me. The movie is set in a village backdrop. Disco is being bankrolled under the Pen N Paper and Kallur Cinemas banners. Dhruva is scoring the music. I thank all the



guests for gracing this function," Hari Santhosh said.

Vikky Varun said Disco, his fourth movie, is different. "I have written the script for this movie. It is the story of a youth who decides to convert a village into a city. Hari Santhosh has written its screenplay," said Varun.

On Congratulations Brother, Hari Santhosh said that he is working as a creative head for the movie. "We launched Pen N Paper two years ago. Congratulations Brother is the team's maiden movie. Prathap Gandharva is its director," said Hari Santhosh.

It's a rap

The third song from the highly anticipated film Maryade Prashne, titled 'Pirako Maar', is now out. Written and performed by Dakhini rapper Pashabhai, the song is composed in a hip-hop style by music director Arjun Ramu, who had previously created melodic and folk-style tracks for the film.

About the song, Arjun Ramu said, "Maryade Prashne needed a song that portrayed middle-class aggression. Collaborating with Pashabhai, we created this rap. With classy beats and a powerful mass BGM, we are confident this song will resonate with everyone."

The two-and-a-half minute promo video features the film's leads - Sunil Rao, Rakesh Adiga, and Poornachandra



Mysuru - and highlights the resilience of middle class youth. It also features the sport of cockfighting. The song is now available on the Sakkath Studio YouTube channel.

The cast of Maryade Prashne includes Teju Belawadi, Sunil Rao, Poornachandra Mysuru, Rakesh Adiga, Shine Shetty, and Prabhu Mundkur. Veteran actors like Nagabharana, Prakash Tumbinadu, Nandagopal, Nagendra Sha, Rekha Kundligi, Shravan, and Hariharan also play key roles. The film has five songs, all composed by Arjun Ramu.